

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing an image described in a multi-color color space for rendering, in a single-colorant color space, the method comprising:

collecting histogram information from the multi-color color space image wherein bins within the histogram classify image pixels based on luminance information and hue information;

classifying peaks within the histogram that have similar luminance as conflicting colors;

applying at least one distinct spatial modulation to, and only to, at least one respective single colorant version of at least one of the conflicting colors in a single colorant version of the image, thereby ensuring that all single colorant versions of colors in the image are visually distinguishable from one another while minimizing distortions in a remainder of the single colorant version of the image; and

at least one of storing and rendering the single colorant version of the image.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising before classifying, locating peaks within the histogram data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein applying spatial modulation further comprises associating a unique modulation to the single colorant versions of each of the conflicting colors.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
measuring a color distance between at least one pixel in the image and at

least one conflicting color; and,

applying an attenuated spatial modulation to at least one pixel in the single colorant version of the image, the attenuation ranging from zero to one hundred percent of a reference modulation, the level of attenuation being a function of the measured color distance.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein applying an attenuated modulation further comprises:

applying an attenuated spatial modulation to at least one pixel in the single colorant version of the image, the attenuation ranging from zero to one hundred percent of a reference modulation, the level of attenuation being a non-linear function of the measured color distance.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of applying an attenuated modulation further comprises:

applying an attenuated spatial modulation to at least one pixel in the image, the attenuation ranging from zero to one hundred percent of a reference modulation, the level of attenuation being a linear function of the measured color distance.

Claim 10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The image processor of claim 40_16 wherein the image analyzer further comprises:

a histogram collector operative to classify pixels in the color image based on a characteristic that is also used to generate the single colorant version of the color image.

12. (Previously Presented) The image processor of claim 11 wherein the image analyzer further comprises:

a conflicting color detector operative to examine the histogram and find pixels that are similar with respect to the characteristic that is used to generate the single colorant version of the image.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The image processor of claim 13~~ An image processor operative to generate a single colorant version of a color image, the single colorant version including modulations only where necessary to distinguish between conflicting colors, the image processor comprising:

an image analyzer operative to find and classify conflicting colors in the color image;

a gray scale modulator operative to add spatial modulations to single colorant versions of only the conflicting colors within the single colorant version of the color image wherein the gray scale modulator further comprises a color relationship discriminator operative to receive conflicting color classification information from the image analyzer and color image pixel information, the color relationship discriminator operative to determine a relationship between the color image pixel and the conflicting color and wherein the gray scale modulator further comprises:

a spatial modulation attenuator operative to attenuate a gray scale modulation based on the relationship between the color image pixel and the conflicting color.

15. (Currently Amended) The image processor of claim 13 16 wherein the image gray scale modulator further comprises:

a spatial modulation generator operative to generate a gray scale spatial modulation for application to a single_colorant version of a color.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The image processor of claim 13~~ An image processor operative to generate a single colorant version of a color image, the single colorant version including modulations only where necessary to distinguish between conflicting colors, the image processor comprising:

an image analyzer operative to find and classify conflicting colors in the color image;

a gray scale modulator operative to add spatial modulations to single colorant versions of only the conflicting colors within the single colorant version of the color image wherein the gray scale modulator further comprises a color

relationship discriminator operative to receive conflicting color classification information from the image analyzer and color image pixel information, the color relationship discriminator operative to determine a relationship between the color image pixel and the conflicting color and wherein the relationship between the conflicting color and the color image pixel comprises a color distance within a color space.

17. (Currently Amended) The image processor of claim 13 An image processor operative to generate a single colorant version of a color image, the single colorant version including modulations only where necessary to distinguish between conflicting colors, the image processor comprising:

an image analyzer operative to find and classify conflicting colors in the color image;

a gray scale modulator operative to add spatial modulations to single colorant versions of only the conflicting colors within the single colorant version of the color image wherein the gray scale modulator further comprises

a color relationship discriminator operative to receive conflicting color classification information from the image analyzer and color image pixel information, the color relationship discriminator operative to determine a relationship between the color image pixel and the conflicting color and wherein the relationship between the conflicting color and the color image pixel comprises a color distance within a perceptually uniform color space.

18. (Currently Amended) The image processor of claim 13 An image processor operative to generate a single colorant version of a color image, the single colorant version including modulations only where necessary to distinguish between conflicting colors, the image processor comprising:

an image analyzer operative to find and classify conflicting colors in the color image;

a gray scale modulator operative to add spatial modulations to single colorant versions of only the conflicting colors within the single colorant version of the color image wherein the gray scale modulator further comprises a color relationship discriminator operative to receive conflicting color classification information from the image analyzer and color image pixel information, the color

relationship discriminator operative to determine a relationship between the color image pixel and the conflicting color and wherein the relationship between the conflicting color and the color image pixel comprises a color distance within a CIELAB color space.

19. (Currently Amended) The image processor of claim 40-16 wherein the image processor further comprises an image receiver.

20. (Original) The image processor of claim 19 wherein the image receiver further comprises a xerographic printer.

Claims 21-23 (Canceled)